

closed his business and sold the building to John Crundle who had this building moved to another lot in Rodney and converted it into a residence which is still standing to-day.

In 1879, Chas. Nicholson built, on grounds opposite the Christian Church, a Turning Factory which turned all kinds of handles, bed and chair spindles. It was later run by John Purcell and Dougald Campbell, and later sold to N.S. Lusty, who moved the machinery to a large saw and planing mill erected in 1891, on the Furnival at Back Street. Mr. Lusty with his two sons, William and Ernest G. (the writer), continued to run this mill until 1908, when it was sold to F.A. McCallum. The mill burned in November 1908.

In the late 80's Robert Mowbray moved a large saw and shingle mill from Eagle and erected it on the Furnival north of Centre Street. This changed hands successively to J.H. Greer and Son, to Wright and Hay of Woodstock, then to William Flater, who enlarged it by adding a basket factory, the first of its kind in Rodney. A large business was carried on until the mill burned on March 5, 1911.

Dr. E. Ostrander, who was the first doctor (1871), and Dr. Munger practised medicine in 1872, and in 1891 the latter built a drug store and carried on until his death. Scott Menzies had a Gents' Furnishing store in what was formerly Dr. Munger's Drug Store. Dr. D.F. McDonald arrived in 1879, from Ilderton, purchased Moore's Drug Store, tore it down and built a new Drug Store, office and dwelling combined. These are now Garton's Store and Milton's property.

H.F. Jell was the first lawyer, coming from Wardsville about 1880. John Huffman erected the building where Glen Patton's store now is, and used it as a Furniture store and Decorator's shop. Dan Markle built a carriage and blacksmith shop on the west corner of the Furnival and Queen Street. He carried on a thriving business and enlarged his shop to double its capacity.

James Carter was associated with Markle for some time but later built for himself a similar shop, with a dwelling at the back of it on Stinson Street, this dwelling was the first brick house built in Rodney (now occupied by Glen Patton).

Dan Kennedy was Rodney's first School Teacher and taught in the Town Hall in 1874. Bob Munroe taught in the new School in 1875, and Sarah Kerr taught in the annex in 1879.

Dan McCallum was the first butcher; his shop was across the street from the Edinburg Hotel, now owned by the Patterson Hardware Co. and used as a dwelling. Others to run this shop were J.H. Barber and Robert McCorkell. Later the premises were occupied by Dr. H. McL. Paterson as his office. Mr. McCallum moved to St. Thomas in the late 70's; he had three sons who were very good butchers. When Jumbo, the circus elephant, was killed, these McCallum sons were called to skin and dissect the elephant. They took several coins from Jumbo's stomach; one of these coins is in the writer's possession. The McCallum sons competed at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, and won second prize for time and efficiency in dressing a beef.

Julius Krause built a dwelling where the Charles Martini Sr. house now is, and had a hardware store on the corner of Main and the Furnival in 1873. This store was later sold to W. Porter, then to W. Bristow, and then to Mistele and Schmid, and Mistele finally took over the share of Schmid. The Mistele sons still carry on this flourishing business.

R.S. Lusty had a livery in the stables of the Edinburg Hotel. He also ran the stage and carried the mail from Rodney to New Glasgow, this being the first livery stables in Rodney, 1874.

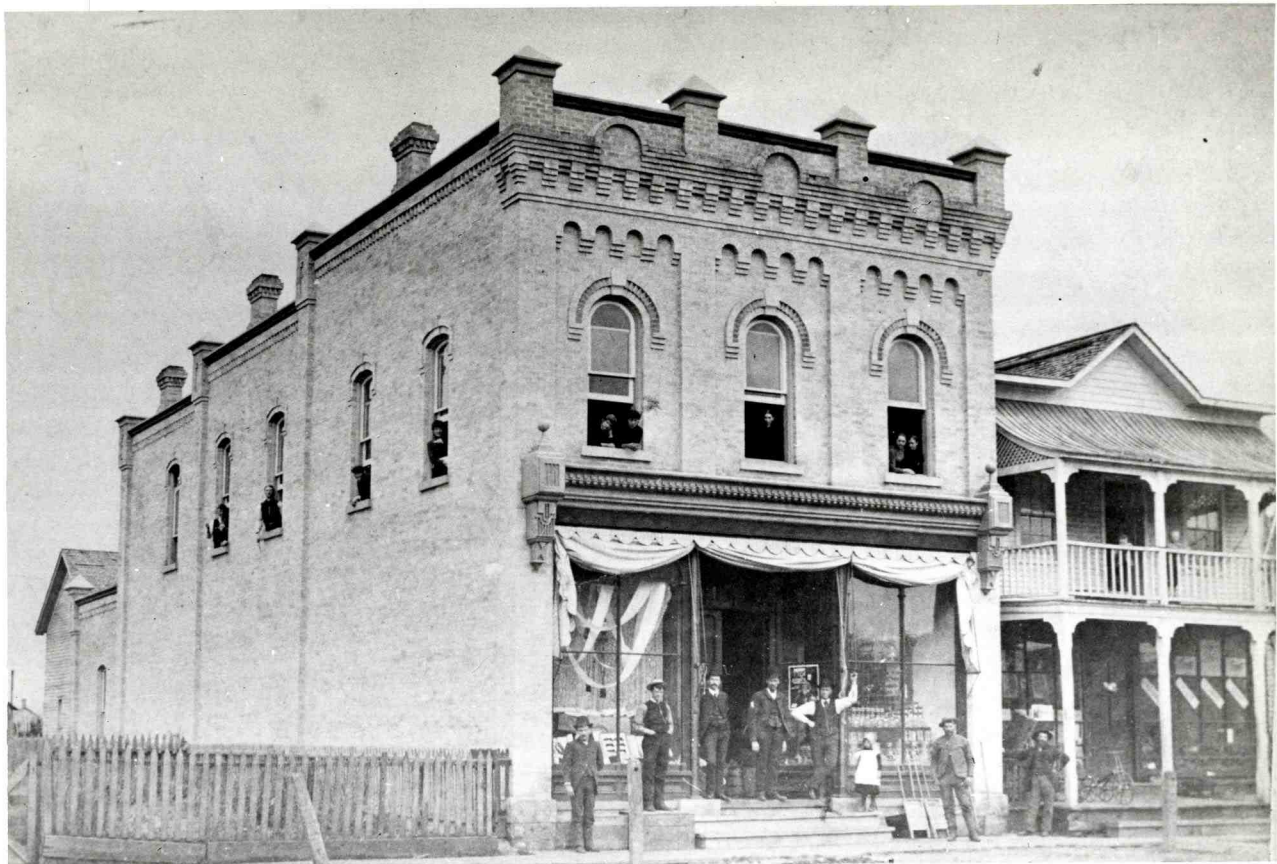
Before the railroad ran through Rodney (1872), William Stinson began to sub-divide his land, where five churches, the Town Hall and the Post Office and many fine residences are located to-day. He named Stinson Street for his family. His sons Ogle and Joe followed for a time in the shoe-making

business of their father. Ogle R.G. Stinson built a grain elevator, in 1884; he was the oldest son of Wm. Stinson, and he carried on this business for years until his death. He employed many girls and women picking beans by hand. Joe later became a barber and ran a barber shop for many years. He was followed in turn by his son Gordon, who is still in business here.

The first school house was built on the Stinson land at the corner of Powell and Stinson Streets in 1875, and enlarged in 1878. The present school house was built in 1890, east of the Stinson land.

Lachlin Paterson and his family, owned the west side of the Furnival south of Queen Street. His parents migrated from Scotland in 1818. He subdivided his property in the early 1870's, naming Jane St. after his wife, Jane McLean. It now comprises part of the business center of the village. Part of this land came into the hands of Archie McMillan. He had it subdivided, and as T.C. Campbell was one of the men who was assisting in the subdividing, he named Sanford Street for his son Sanford. Archie McMillan named Flora Street for his daughter, Flora McMillan.

Many stories of interesting incidents in the early pioneer life of Rodney survive. In the northern part of the village the first road did not run where the Furnival now runs. The road would naturally be a trail following the ridge through Keutch's fields. This swamp was called Swamp Na Caille-auch, meaning the Swamp of the Old Woman. The story goes that an old woman, going through the swamp heard wolves bay-ing and approaching, she climbed upon the roots of an old tree that had been blown over and screamed for help. Her cries were heard by the Patersons and McArthurs out on Back Street. These neighbors rushed to her rescue carrying flaming torches, which they swung as they approached. The wolves were frightened away, the old woman was rescued, and now not





even the swamp remains - only the story.

Another story is of an old man travelling through the forest with the transportation of the day - a yoke of oxen hitched to a stone boat. He was conveying a sugar kettle and a quarter of beef. He heard the wolves approaching so he hitched the oxen to a tree and covered the quarter of beef with the kettle, then he sat on the kettle and swung his axe 'round and 'round. The wolves were scared away, not only by the rotating axe but also by the rattling of the oxen's chains as they stamped around the tree,

The Rodney of the early days with its many hotels and not any churches has developed into an enterprising village, with many a church - but no hotel for the travelling public. It is in the center of a thriving community of farmers and tobacco growers, with well paved roads in all directions. It has excellent Lake Erie water, clean and well-lighted streets and good school facilities. The plan of the new school, built in 1890, was awarded the first prize at the Chicago World Fair in 1893, as the best laid out rural school.

The Fair Grounds have been recently extended and levelled. A circular half-mile track has been built, and a baseball diamond laid out. Other facilities such as an enlarged grandstand and sheds for prize stock are being provided. The enlarged and improved Fair Grounds will be a great credit to the Agricultural Society.

THE POLICE VILLAGE OF RODNEY

For some years the progressive element of Rodney was wanting to be set apart as a police village, but on account of strong opposition several years passed before they were able to achieve their ambition. Rodney was receiving from the Township Council about \$400. per year for public works, and this amount did not go very far in providing needed improvements.

On March 19th, 1901, the County Council of the County of Elgin passed Bylaw No. 621, setting Rodney apart as a Police Village. Nomination for trustees was held at the Township Hall, Rodney, and the following were nominated:- Albert Humphrey, J.W. Lee, N.S. Lusty, Daniel Markle, D.H. McRitchie, and S.B. Morris. The election was held April 10, 1901. E.A. Hugill, Clerk of the Township, acting as returning officer.

The vote was as follows:-

D.H. McRitchie	95	N.S. Lusty	66	Albert Humphrey	43
Daniel Markle	86	J.W. Lee	51	S.B. Morris	21

The first three were declared elected as Trustees. The first meeting owing to the illness of D.H. McRitchie was held at his home, in the cement house, west on Queen Street. On motion of N.S. Lusty and Daniel Markle, E.A. Hugill was appointed Secretary for the meeting, and on motion of Markle-McRitchie, N.S. Lusty was appointed Chairman of the Board for 1901. On motion of Lusty-McRitchie, McRitchie was selected as Inspecting Trustee for 1901. E.A. Hugill was appointed Clerk. For his services as clerk of the village and for the use of his office as a meeting-place for the Trustees, he was paid \$8.00 per annum. On April 26, 1901, a resolution was passed asking the Township of Aldborough to pass a By-law commuting statute labor within the Village of Rodney at 75 cents per day, if paid by June 15, otherwise \$1.00 per day.

A petition was circulated throughout the village to build a cement sidewalk on the west side of the Furnival from Queen Street to the M.C.R.R. tracks. This was followed by another petition for a cement walk on the east side from Queen to Clark. Both petitions were approved and the construction of the walk was supervised by D.H. McRitchie with Peter Sinclair as Contractor under day labor. The cement was all mixed by hand, the lower four inches was mixed five parts gravel to one part cement, and

the top one inch equal parts of lake sand and cement. These two walks were the best laid down in Rodney, both paid for by public subscription.

Some old culverts were torn out and cement tile about three feet in diameter were installed. The Pere Marquette Railway furnished about sixty carloads of gravel at \$2.00 per carload, delivered.

The Police Trustees for 1902 were D.H. McRitchie, Daniel Markle, and J.W. Lee. On motion of Markle-Lee, McRitchie was appointed Chairman for 1902. On motion of McRitchie-Markle, E.A. Hugill was re-appointed Secretary at almost double the salary, \$15.00 per annum, said amount to cover meeting-place, light and heat.

J.W. Lee made a motion that he be inspecting trustee, but there was no seconder. On motion of Markle-McRitchie, Markle was appointed Inspector, with Lee dissenting.

Manual labor was paid at the rate of \$1.00 for ten hours. The Inspector received \$40.00 for his year's services.

1903 - Trustees: J.W. Lee, Chairman, N.S. Lusty and Daniel Markle.

E.A. Hugill, Secretary at the same terms as for the previous year. Inspector, N.S. Lusty at \$65.00 for the year. Wages were at the rate of \$1.50 for ten hours.

1904 - Trustees: J.J. Mistele, Chairman, N.S. Lusty and William Flater. Inspector, N.S. Lusty.

In May 1904, N.S. Lusty was appointed to wait upon the Elgin County Council at its June session to support a petition to incorporate the Board of Trustees of the Police Village of Rodney. The petition was approved. The principal work before the new Board was repairing side-walks and laying more cement walks. Labor was at the rate of \$1.50 a day for a man, and \$3.00 a day for a man with a team.

1905 - Trustees: William Flater, Chairman, E.G. Lusty and J.J. Mistele.

Inspector, J.J. Mistele; Secretary, E.A. Hugill at \$20.00 for salary, room, heat and light.

1906 - Trustees: S.B. Morris, Chairman, E.G. Lusty and William Flater. Inspector, E.G. Lusty at \$75.00; Secretary, E.A. Hugill with no salary increase.

On April 25, 1906, a motion by Flater-Lusty was approved that the Board insert the necessary advertisement in the Rodney Mercury that it is the intention of the Board to Macadamize the Furnival between Queen Street and the M.C.R.R. tracks with concrete curbs and gutters. Under Local Improvement, forty per cent of the cost was to be charged to the property abutting the street, said charges to be made in ten equal and annual instalments.

Nearly a mile of cement walks were laid in 1906.

1907 - Trustees: elected by acclamation, S.B. Morris Chairman, and E.G. Lusty and William Flater. E.A. Hugill Secretary, at the same salary. Inspector, E.G. Lusty.

During the year another mile of cement walk was laid down. The cement was all mixed by hand and completed at the cost eight cents per square foot.

INCORPORATED AS A VILLAGE

During the seven years that Rodney was a Police Trustee Village, great strides were made in improving streets, laying down cement walks, and other improvements. There was no thought of being incorporated as a Village until word was received that West Lorne was seeking incorporation at the November Meeting of the County Council. It was too late for Rodney to get in their application for the regular session of the Council, however two petitions were circulated for signatures - one for incorporation, the other against.